Action Update

Accelerating

Are we close to a breakthrough on scaling?

by Zennith on Friday 25th June 2021

Maybe!

Here's where we stand: (1) our research projects are well underway, (2) the community of people passionate about making freedom of form possible continues to grow, (3) our volunteers and employees are continuing to learn and improve how they work together, and (4) we are progressively earning the support of more donors.

Also, importantly, it appears that we are close to locking in the "fixed costs" for administration, since we've been able to get rid of several external contractors, and we're more familiar with performing those functions in-house. That means that growth in our expenses should primarily come from increased program activities like research and outreach.

My personal ideal would be to have the FFF in a position where we can hire a few people as full-time employees, especially including researchers. While we're having impact now, just imagine what we could do with focused employees. That still appears a little far out though.

So what are the limitations for us right now? That's a tricky question, but there are four important ones that come to mind:

- **Overcome skepticism of more people.** We know there are at least tens of thousands of people out there that would enthusiastically take advantage of full-body morphological changes, and tens of thousands more who would appreciate less-substantial ones. We also know many of them regard our organization with skepticism. We need to provide more evidence and more results that prove we are genuinely making advancements that will make their dreams possible.
- **Improve productivity and management.** We've been steadily improving in these areas. When we started in 2018, one of our gaps was that our team had little management experience. But, we've been learning about what makes for good project plans, how to run meetings, how to break down a project into achievable tasks, and how to work as small teams to achieve goals. Still, we're not *fluent* at those learnings yet, and we still need to spend effort to get all volunteers and all teams on the same page.
- **Getting out there.** We've been reaching out to influential people like Anders Sandberg, Liz Parrish, Aubrey de Grey, and Hugh Herr, and have had wonderful conversations with them. A next step is to start cultivating conversations with more *types* of influential professionals, such as medical doctors, government regulators, or practicing body artists, and also to encourage conversations *between them*.
- **Funding, and being able to hire full-time workers.** Yes, that's an unfortunate reality. We would all love to go full-time and work for the mission of our organization. A benefit of full-time work is that your employees could work during the most energetic and creative parts of

the day, rather than fitting in FFF work on nights and weekends. It's a recipe for improving results, reducing stress, and making people happier all around, but we simply don't have the resources yet. Until then, we're making do with part-time and volunteer-based contributions.

Even without any breakthroughs, we will gradually overcome the above limitations one step at a time.

But there's a funny thing about the above limitations as well. As you get closer to solving one of them, that makes acceleration easier and faster for the other limitations.

It's not hard to imagine a positive conversation with skeptics, or improvements in productivity, or a good encounter with an influential leader in their field, or a gift/grant from a philanthropist, making it possible to pull forward timelines and create a breakthrough scenario that allows us to rapidly overcome all the other limitations.

Again though, we're already chipping away at those limitations, and we'll be fine even without a breakthrough.

Everything starts with small steps. If you find yourself in a conversation about freedom of form or using biotechnology for self-expression, please do remember there are a lot of concrete steps we can do, and biotechnologies we can develop, to make it real. Please do refer the other person to our organization as well. Thank you so much!

Check out our updated vision and strategy page

Integument review project update

by Athamanatha Kitsune on Friday 25th June 2021

The Integument Review team has been mining rich seams of data and constructing a coherent review that joins studies which previously stood apart in different fields of interest. This is true interdisciplinary research, even if only at the literature level, this is the stuff we have to do to identify what stuff we actually have to do in labs, and what's already been done and is known.

Already we have come to appreciate the scale of the challenge of fully understanding the mechanisms of integument, and made bald steps towards our goals. Despite sometimes very woolly existing studies that come within a hair's breadth of insufficiency, we are building a review that covers everything we know, don't know and need to know. It's sure to be no featherweight.

Read the project report (May be reformatted prior to website publication)

To speak to the board, press 1.

by Athamanatha Kitsune on Sunday 20th June 2021

With support from my old boss at my old job at, um, With Support Ltd, we have set up a professional phone system (PBX) with automated menus (IVRs), hold music and voicemail! This is all linked to a Boston phone

number which we can use for calling regulators, state governments, institutions and so forth, and for getting calls from them.

This number will be kept on a need-to-know basis for now, until we are better able to have staff available to answer calls from a wider public.

Athena in the 11½th Podcast!

by Athamanatha Kitsune on Sunday 20th June 2021

So the next (12th) podcast WAS planned to be Space: The Final Frontier. Then Athena decided to do a really neat talk with me and we had to shoehorn it in. So now we have an 11½th FFF Podcast episode coming first. I hope you don't mind!

Catch up with our previous podcast episodes today!

Coming soon: A fantastic interview with Liz Parrish!

by Athamanatha Kitsune on Sunday 20th June 2021

Last week I had the privilege to sit down and interview with one of the most interesting biotech CEOs in the world. Without revealing too much ahead of time, let's just say Liz is very keen on our cause and this interview will be released in an unmissable near-2-hour video.

But first we need to go through a few weeks of editing and polishing. It'll be worth it!

Check out Liz's company, Bioviva Science

We're on LinkedIn, Youtube, Soundcloud, Google Podcasts, Breaker, RadioPublic, Spotify, Pocket, iTunes, Anchor, Twitter, Telegram and Discord!
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